

I thoroughly support the expansion of SLE trains to New London on weekends. This is a service which has been sorely lacking in our region forever. These days there are many workers who do not have the traditional commute of Monday through Friday. This includes people in the medical profession, those working in retail, hotel and tourism workers, and the entertainment business. All those people who live and work between New Haven and New London must use their cars to commute on weekends. It would be a godsend to provide weekend trains. There is adequate parking at the New London train station, and this would reduce the demand for parking at Old Saybrook, which is the station that southeastern Connecticut residents now must use.

Additionally, southeastern Connecticut is the biggest draw for tourists in Connecticut. What a convenience it would be for visitors from New York to be able to board a train in NYC and continue from New Haven via Shoreline East to reach New London. From here, taxis or SEAT buses could take them to the casinos, Mystic Aquarium and the Seaport. Visitors could attend concerts or shows at the Garde Theater, which is walking distance from the train station. The highway stretch of Route 95 between East Lyme and Old Lyme is extremely dangerous and frequent accidents on that road have tied up traffic for hours. The summer months are exceptionally congested due to beach traffic. Travelers on the train can avoid the highway and reduce the number of cars on the road.

I strongly support expansion of Shoreline East to New London on weekends, and I would love to see the train service connect eventually all the way to Westerly, RI.

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